

representative men, fresh from the people,  
appointed through the machinery of popular  
bodies, who shall formulate a plan for  
bringing an important measure to the at-  
tention of Congress. If this is not "the in-  
itiative," what is it? When Populists op-  
pose this they show either that they are  
not sincere in demanding the initiative or  
else that they do not know what it means.

#### LET US KEEP COOL.

The American people are rather too prone  
to get highly excited for sentimental rea-  
sons over matters that do not involve their  
interests or honor, and which are really  
none of their business except as they  
choose to make them so. We should al-  
ways be quick to defend our rights, our  
interests or our honor, but we do not want  
to earn the reputation of being the Don  
Quixote of nations and of undertaking to  
right all the wrongs in the world. There  
has been a great deal of sentimental gush  
in Congress over the Turkish outrages in  
Armenia, there was a large amount of  
bluster and bravado over the Venezuelan  
business, and now there is a fresh out-  
break of warlike talk on the Cuban ques-  
tion. Before proceeding to get violently ex-  
cited over these questions we should re-  
member that none of them involves Ameri-  
can interests or honor to any appreciable  
extent, and that our concern in or about  
them is purely sympathetic. So far as the  
Armenian and Venezuelan questions are  
concerned they did not affect us even re-  
motely, and although the Cuban question  
does nearer home and affords a much  
better field for the exercise of our sym-  
pathies, it has not involved any such viola-  
tion of American rights or interests as  
requires or would justify our going to war  
for their protection. There is abundant  
room for sympathy and for the expression  
of popular feeling, but it is sometimes far  
wiser for governments to resist and oppose  
such expressions than to yield to them.

War is always a serious and costly mat-  
ter. It should be the last resort of rep-  
ublics as well as of kings. War with  
Spain would be greatly to be deprecated,  
because it would be serious and costly, and  
we could not get any glory or profit out  
of it. Of course, in such a war the United  
States would come out victorious, but the  
victory would probably cost a great deal  
more than most people imagine, and, when  
gained, would not be worth the price.

There would be no glory to the United  
States in whipping Spain, and when we  
came to foot up the debit and credit sides  
of the account we should probably dis-  
cover that the practical enforcement of our  
sympathy with Cuba had resulted in a  
large addition to our public debt. Of  
course, such a war would result in the  
liberation of Cuba, and, equally, of course,  
the present recognition of Cuba by this  
government would result in war, and we  
before taking that step we should ask our-  
selves very seriously if we are called upon  
to do it by considerations of national in-  
terest or honor, and if it would pay. Be-  
cause the Cubans are striking for inde-  
pendence it does not follow that the United  
States should engage in a strike of sym-  
pathy.

#### GERMANY'S SUGAR SURPLUS.

The local organ of free trade and Bryan-  
ism says:

The German sugar industry seems to be  
in a sad time, with the bounty law which  
was passed to develop it, and has de-  
veloped it so much that it is getting be-  
hind in the world.

The "sad time" which the German sugar  
industry is having is in its enormous  
growth under the bounty law. Under the  
encouragement of this law the beet-sugar  
industry in Germany has grown in com-  
paratively a few years from almost nothing  
to vast proportions. From being a large  
importer of sugar Germany is now a large  
exporter, and as the market is in danger of  
being glutted the manufacturers are cast-  
ing about for some means of curtailing  
production. This may be somewhat diffi-  
cult to accomplish, but it cannot be as dif-  
ficult or take nearly as long as it did to  
build up the business. A distinguished  
American has remarked that it is much  
easier to deal with a surplus than with a  
deficit. This is true of manufactures as  
well as of finance, of sugar as well as of dol-  
lars. It is not to be expected that ad-  
vances of free trade, short of the tariff  
and treasury deficits should recognize this fact,  
but it is nevertheless true. By as much  
as the reduction of a surplus in the treas-  
ury is easier than the making up of a  
deficit, by so much is the pruning of an  
overgrown industry to healthy proportions  
easier than the building up of such an in-  
dustry from nothing. It took many years  
of wise legislation on the part of Germany  
and industrious effort by her farmers and  
manufacturers to develop the sugar-beet  
industry in that country to its present  
great proportions. If it has become un-  
wisely or if the market is in danger of  
being glutted a way can doubtless be found  
of effecting a reasonable restriction of pro-  
duction without inflicting a very "sad  
time." At all events, the situation in Ger-  
many cannot be much sadder than it is  
in this country, where the beet-sugar in-  
dustry was killed by the repeal of the bounty  
in 1894 and where the people are paying  
about \$100,000,000 a year for sugar imported  
from other countries, a large proportion  
being from Germany.

#### SEA POWER.

The estimates of appropriations submitted  
by the secretary of the treasury for the  
fiscal year, July 1, 1897, to June 30, 1898,  
call for \$23,477,773 for the navy. The appropria-  
tion last year was \$23,716,077. These are  
large figures and may well excite atten-  
tion. Moreover, they are apt to continue at  
about this rate for several years to come,  
yet they do not necessarily imply any mis-  
appropriation or waste of public funds. In  
all public works of this kind there is a  
large field for economy, but in spite of all  
that can be done in this direction a mod-  
ern navy is an enormously costly plant.  
The time has come, however, when, if this  
country is to take any hold place among the  
great powers, it must have a modern navy.  
At present the United States has a re-  
spectable navy, including a few of the fast-  
est armored cruisers and best fighting  
machines in the world, but our navy is  
considerably surpassed by those of some  
other countries, which are also expending  
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